

Council President Michael C. Mentel addressed the Columbus Community at the Firefighters Memorial Monument on Sunday, October 5, 2008:

Thank you for inviting me to join you for this solemn remembrance as we celebrate those who dedicated years, and in some cases, decades of their lives to the service of Columbus.

It is said that “when a man becomes a firefighter his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished.”

And while I’m sure none of the men we are honoring today considers themselves to be heroes, by the very act of taking an oath to put the safety of others above the safety of themselves, they became heroes to us all.



Council President Michael C. Mentel

The Columbus Division of Fire is a family.

A strong family built on foundation of caring men and women.

A profession that is often times handed down from one generation to the next.

It is a family with deep roots, built on the ideals of self sacrifice and service.

It is a family in which those who have been called to the profession spend countless hours training and just as many hours hoping they never have to put their training to use.

Under the leadership of Safety Director Brown and Chief Pettus, we have the finest group of fire fighters in America.

We at City Council strive to provide our safety forces with the best equipment money can buy.

But in the end, it’s not about the hardware, the Medic or the ladder or the radio, it’s about the person.

It is the firefighter who in a moment of crisis relies on their training and sense of duty to perform acts of bravery unimaginable to most of us.

It is the dispatcher who calmly reassures a caller that help is on the way.

It is the family member who says a silent prayer every time their loved one leaves for duty.

The firefighters I have met are humble men and women.

They do not seek the recognition they deserve. In fact, when given a chance, they deflect praise to those around them.

That is why events like this one are so important, a chance for a grateful community to say “Thank you” to our heroes, “Thank you” to our firefighters.

May God bless the Columbus Division of Fire and may God bless all of you.

Thank you.